# Rare Blossoms in Local Conservatories

Few people know that there are sev- blossoms of orchids in Honolulu, owned and tendprobably those which originally came parent of a number of new varieties, from Central and South America.

Brazil and to wander along the banks guarly green things were spronting. of the Amazon in search of rare specicollectors either in Europe or the United States or sold to commercial buyers in both of these countries.

The finding of the orchid is only a small beginning, for a long series of possible mishaps must be looked out for and avoided before it reaches the hands of the man with the hobby. If the natives, whom the collecters employ to gather them from the high trees and other difficult places where they grow wild, do not injure them in removing them from their native resorts, or in packing them, to be transported on the backs of mules, to the nearest seaport, they will get safely started off on a sea voyage. For this voyage they must not be placed on any old part of the vessel. They must be given a firstclass passage and a special place where they will not get too much dry heat or any salt water on them, else the life will be all shriveled out and the consignee receive only dead and withered sticks. If the plants are allowed to make too much growth on the journey they generally rot off and this too has to be guarded against.

Then the plants arrive and are carefully unpacked, the proud possessor starts in on a course of treatment that to the layman would be as bad as being put in charge of an incubator bucy. The treatment required depends largely orchid family mixtures and we would upon what part of the world the plants not like to name a variety after some some from, but they all have their own friend if the blossom shows that the little peculiarities and different varie- plant has to be discarded as an imties requiring different degrees of heat possibility after all. and moisture. Then again, they insist upon having a rest when they feel like larly lumpy and rooty plant, "we exdoes not just exactly please their fancy old. Perhaps we will get a flower next solutely refuse to blossom. Sometimes news was too good to be true. and thrive, providing they are left in that one place until they blossom-after that they may be moved with safety. Like an important section of humanity, they are "uncertain, coy and hard to please." But-the collectors say-they

are worth all the trouble. The true lover of orchids is amply repaid for all his pains when some of the various beautiful blossoms make their appearance. Most of the uninitiated have a mistaken idea of the life of an orchid blossom, which, while fragile in appearance and delicate in coloring, possess the most wonderful endurance. In a hot house, some species will remain perfect for as long as six or seven weeks and even as cut flowers, ten days or two weeks.

trio are the proud possessors of hun- he was forced to leave for his home dreds of rare plants, worth thousands across seas, but so great was his reof dollars. W. M. Giffard has turned gard for the idol that he feared he collection of orchids. Mrs. Faxon Bishop, the priests told him to take the idol devotees of the fascinating pastime of his own back yard.

S. M. Damon's three orchid houses at collection of orehids among which are whole affair to the Sanders conservaland three years ago. During the past two years each one of these has blossomed and turned out to be a perfect specimen of its kind. The five most beautiful of these were obtained by Gigas, Laelia Purpurata and Cattleya Mossiae, Laclia Purpurata and Cattleya Labiata, Lailia Tenelrosa and Brassavola Digbyana, Cattleya Bowsingiana and Cattleya Hardyana, for under names like these must the delicate blossoms

Since beginning orehid cultivation ten years ago Mr. Damon has done a lot of personal experimenting and at present has a score or more of five-yearold hybrids which he expects will probably blossom within the next year or at the latest in the next two years, when he will be able to tell how great has been his success. For it is not until the blossom makes its appearance tnat it is possible to judge of the beauty or rarity of a hybrid. Six which Mr. Damon is watching with great expectanev were obtained by crossing the Bras savo'a Digbyana and Cattleya Aurea, Lael a Purpurata and Cattleya Mossiae. Lael a Purpurata and Cattleya Gigas. Lael a Purpurata and Cattleya Schrodiae, Cattleya Gigas and Cattleya An rea, Luclia Anceps and Cattleya Mes siae. Think of the bravery of the horticulturist who would dare take liber ties with such multisyllables.

The rariest and most valuable hybrid among Mr. Damon's whole collection is a crossing of the Cattleva Bowsingiana and Cartleva Aurea, which blossomed profusely this year. Mr. Damon has succeeded in getting together a collection of plants whose blossoming periods eover each month of the year so that there is no time at which he has not

eral large and very valuable collections gardener in charge of all the Moanalua gardens, is a leading authority on ored personally by men and women with chids. Not only does he know how to whom they have become a hobby-for coax them into bloom, but he knows whom they have become a honor-ion all their names and can say the long-orchids are the queen of all hobbies, est without stopping for breath. He Beautiful plants these are, gathered also knows the history of the various from all parts of the world, the rarest orchid families and is himself the foster some of which have not as yet ad-

rom Central and South America.

Gatherers of these rare plants in their

We want to wait until they bloom native jungles continually risk their before we name them," Mr. MacIntyre lives to enter the dense thickets of explained, gazing fondly at a row of Brazil and to wander along the banks pots with holes all over them, in which mens, which are disposed of to private are going to get when we start in on



"This one," taking down a particuit and require a special treatment while pect to be very fine. It ought to bloom taking it. If the house given them within two years now. It is five years they will become stubborn and will ab- year." He spoke in a tone as if the

they even insist upon the position they Concerning the history of the various are to occupy in the house and when species, Mr. MacIntyre has many things moved until satisfied they will go ahead of interest to tell. What he relates of the discovery of the dendrobium group for instance, is an example. This orchid, the blossom of which is shown in the top half tone on this page, was found in Borneo by a collector sent there by Sanders, the big London importer. The collector secured what plants he could find and started, highly elated, back for England. On the way the steamer burned and the dendrobiums went up in smoke along with everything else. He cabled the sad intelligence to London, only to receive an answer from Sanders "Go back and find some more."

belonging to Mrs. Tenney, who has

been devoting her time for many

months to the care and cultivation of

ferns as well as orchids. Mrs. Ten-

nev's fern collection contains some very beautiful and rare maidenhair

ferns. There is a good-natured rivalry always on in the Tenney family over

the results of their experiments. Just at present there are only a few of Mr.

Tenney's orchids in blossom, but there

are a score of long sprays of buds

which will be at the height of their

beauty when their owner arrives on

Another collection of orchids is to

be found at the home of Archibald

Baird on Kinau street, where this lover

of the rare plants devotes many hours to their care and cultivation. The pic-

tures used on this page are reproduc-

tions of some of the beautiful blossoms

in Mr. Baird's collection, reproduced from photographs by R. K. Bonine, It

is impossible from a picture, however,

to obtain an idea of the beauty and

delicate coloring of these flowers. An

especially excellent specimen was a long spray of Dendrobium Phoelan-

W. M. Giffard has disposed of all but

a few rare specimens of his orchid col-

lection, and has devoted his time of

late to the hibiscus. There are two

especial varieties of genus hibiscus

grown in Honolulu, the Marshmallow

and the Rosa sincresis. The single

flowers of the former are interesting

from the gardener's standpoint, but its

form as a shrub does not begin to

compare with the Rosa sincresis. For

this reason it is not especially culti-

vated. On the other hand, Rosa sin-

cresis and its many varieties of large

single, semi or wholly double flowers,

made it a general favorite in Hawaii.

early part of 1902, Mr. Giffard, having

The following year his experiments

the Lurline.

We went back and he found some more, after a search over the length and breadth of the Bornese jungle. The plants he found were in one locality, however, and that locality was tabu, if given a little care, they will last for being within the limits of a graveyard presided over by a score of grinning The first orchids were brought to and hideous gods. The natives refused Honolulu about 1886 by Capt. John to let him dig up the plants and he Kidwell, who imported a number of could not bribe one to go in and steal varieties for commercial purposes, the coveted growths. What he did Later, the rarest of these were purchas- illustrates the lengths to which an ored by Mrs. S. C. Allen, the late John chid collector will go when he has to Robinson, W. M. Giffard, E. W. Jordan get what he wants. He stayed in the and the late Albert Jaeger, all of whom village, became a reverential worshiper started collections and later imported of the grinniest idol around whose many rare specimens on their own ac- carved wooden body clung the dendrobiums for which the collector was risk-The three largest collections at pres- ing his immortal soul and putting his ent in Honolulu are owned by S. M. Da- mortal body to great inconvenience. mon, E. D. Tenney and A. Baird. This Finally he confided to the priests that his later attention to other rare plants could not stand the separation. Rebut still retains a small but valuable joicing in the sinner led to repentance, Mrs. C. L. Wight, Mrs. J. M. Dowsett up by the roots and lug it to England and Mrs. Lanz are among the women with him, where he could worship it in

The collector lost no time. He took Mr. Idol up, taking care that the or-Moanalua contain a large and valuable chids went with it, and brought the forty-one hybrids imported from Eng. tories. The dendrobiums, still growing on the idol, brought a fancy price.

"Orchids are a fascination," says Mr. MacIntyre, "They have sex and species and then in addition, varieties of both. Thus there are so many crossing Laclia Crispa and Cattleya chances. When we cross two varieties we get a blossom that may have several thousands seeds in the pod and among the seeds are potential blooms of many varieties. We try them out and keep the best. There is also so much chance in buying young hybrids. know one orchid plant bought for together with the shapely and bushy twelve cents which sold after it had appearance, when properly pruned, has flowered for \$250.17

In colors, the orchid blooms run Previous to 1902 a few varieties of through all the shades of heliotropes, the Rosa sincresis had been imported pinks, yellows and reds, but there are from commercial nurseries by local resno blue ones. The man who first finds idents, but nothing had ever been done a blue one will have a fortune. Mr. in the way of cross-fertilizing or hy-MacIntyre tells of a report that caused bridizing these varieties with other spea great deal of excitement among or- cies of the same genus until, in the hid collectors at a time when he was studying botany and horticulture in obtained from Fiji two distinct species Edinburgh, the report being that an of hibiseus, began crossing those with Edinburgh collector had finally devel- the common double bright-red variety. oped the long sought blue.

"I went, along with the others, to see it, said the Moanalua expert, two Fijian species. As a result of all and was disappointed, the same as these intercrossings, thirty-five single, Instead of being double and semidouble flowering by

blue, the orohid was a dirty white," brids of all varieties of color were of At Monnalus one of the three orchid tained. With the exception of three, houses is a hospital. Here are put all which Mr. Giffard disearded as worth the spindly ones, all the ones that de less, these new varieties of hibiscus velop a spleen of any kind. The house were distributed throughout his gar is smaller and dryer and the change dens. Careful pruning and cultivation from the vapor-saturated air of the have made many of these very desiraother houses seems to be a tonic for ble flowering shrubs. Particularly nothe sick plants. One of the houses has ticeable in Mr. Giffard's garden is a the orehids brought has year by Mr. hedgerow of over one hundred feet in MacIntere from the Philippines. These bength, planted with sixteen varieties varieties are all hangers and the plants of the new hybrids, together with three

Dendrobium Phalaenopsis.



in full bloom for quite a period, and | Mr. Giffard's efforts in crossing hibisas it has been allowed to grow natural- cus has led others into the field, and ly, the flowers consist of a combina- at this time many of his own production of innumerable shades of pink, tions have been recrossed with others. red, cream, salmon and pure white, Among those now interested in pro-

with and without the magenta, red and ducing new varieties are Messrs, C. pink throats. Among the special cross. | Montague Cooke, A. Gartley and G. P. ings which are cultivated as individ- | Wilder.

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